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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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[REDACTED] MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION ON NEW SOVIET SMALL ARMS IN AUSTRIA

Introduction

This report deals with information given by Source on a relatively new Soviet semi-automatic carbine, LMG, and a shoulder-operated rocket launcher. 1,2,3

A. NEW SOVIET 7.62-mm SEMI-AUTOMATIC CARBINE MODEL SKS

1. Issue

Sometime in March 1954, a number of carbines, Model SKS, which was sufficient to replace the 7.62-mm Carbine M1944, arrived in source's unit.

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[REDACTED] In addition to the carbine, he was issued six ammunition clips.

2. Training

Immediately after the weapons were issued, two hours per day for approximately one month were devoted to the carbine. Training consisted of functioning, disassembly, assembly, and firing. Instruction was conducted by the platoon sergeant from a secret manual titled "Nastavleniye po Karabinu SKS" (Manual on Carbine, SKS). Source was allowed five rounds on the firing range for the purpose of zeroing his weapon. He also fired the weapon on three other occasions, firing five rounds each time. 5

3. Characteristics

Some of this information source recalled from the manual, some from his observations. The latter are marked with (*).

Model	SKS (Samozarydnny Karabin Siménova) (Siménov Self-loading Carbine)
Caliber	7.62-mm
Operation	Gas, semi-automatic
Magazine Capacity	10 rounds staggered
Magazine	Integral box
Weight:	3.80 kg
w/knife-type bayonet	3.80 kg
w/fluted-type bayonet	3.70 kg
Length of weapon w/o bayonet	1.30 m approx.*
Length of Bayonet	Approx. 30 cm *
Length of Barrel	About the same as 7.62-mm carbine,* M1944
Muzzle Velocity	Unk
Rate of Fire: Practical	Approx. 35 rounds per minute *
Cyclic	Unk

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Range: Maximum 3,000 m

Effective:

Group targets 800 m

Parachutists 400 m

Surprise targets 200 m

Sights: Front Open-post type w/guard

Rear Tangent curve graduated like 7.62 mm carbine, M1944

Ammunition:

Model M1943 (source believed the same ammunition was used in this carbine as in the new LMG and SMG issued in his regiment in June 1954)

Color markings on point of bullet:

Green Tracer *

Red Explosive type 7 *

Primer Has same color markings as tip * of bullet *

Packing Cartridges were packed 20 rounds per paper carton in two metal boxes. In turn the boxes were packed into a wooden box *

Serial number 4 OT 4909

Year of manufacture 4 1953

Replaced 4 7.62-mm Carbine M1944

B. NEW SOVIET 7.62 mm LMG (KALASHNIKOV) (see Annex A)

Source knew that this LMG was issued to the rifle companies and the Recon Co of his regiment. However, he had had only occasional glimpses of this weapon and therefore was only able to supply the following information (see Annex A for a sketch of this weapon based on his description). The basis of information is personal observation unless otherwise indicated.

Caliber 7.62 mm. Hearsay information

Weight Approx 5 kg

Rear Sight Tangent curve

Magazine Capacity 120 rounds metallic belt
Belt was housed in magazine on left side of receiver. Number of rounds is hearsay information

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Feeding:

Magazine	120 rounds mounted on left side of receiver. Number of rounds is hearsay information
Belt	120 rounds metallic belt that is housed in alternate type magazine also mounted on the left side. Number of rounds is hearsay information
Replaced	7.62 mm Model DPM
Issue	Source believed that two were issued to the reconnaissance company. The issue to the rifle companies is unknown. ⁵
Ammo	Same as used by the new LMG and SMG

D. NEW SOVIET ANTITANK ROCKET LAUNCHER (MODEL UNKNOWN)

Source observed a new type of rocket launcher known to him only as "RUCHNOY GRANATOMET or Hand Grenade thrower".¹⁰ He guessed its caliber as 37 mm. He could give only the following information concerning this weapon.

Length	Approx 1 m. Personal observation
Bore Diameter	Approx 4 cm. Personal observation
Firing Mechanism	Unknown - believed to be mechanical
Issued	At rifle company level. Personal observation

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25X1A₇. [REDACTED] Comment: Source is believed to be in error on this description, since it fits what is locally believed to be the incendiary type of bullet.

8. [REDACTED] Comment: Although it is very general, source's sketch of this new LMG differs from the 7.62 mm LMG reported [REDACTED] and referred to as a Degtyarev. Source shows the magazine drum on the left side and also includes a visible gas-operation mechanism. 25X1A

9. [REDACTED] Comment: See [REDACTED] for further information on 25X1A the issue of this weapon.

10. [REDACTED] Comment: This weapon appears to be the same as that previously reported by other sources as 25X1A [REDACTED]

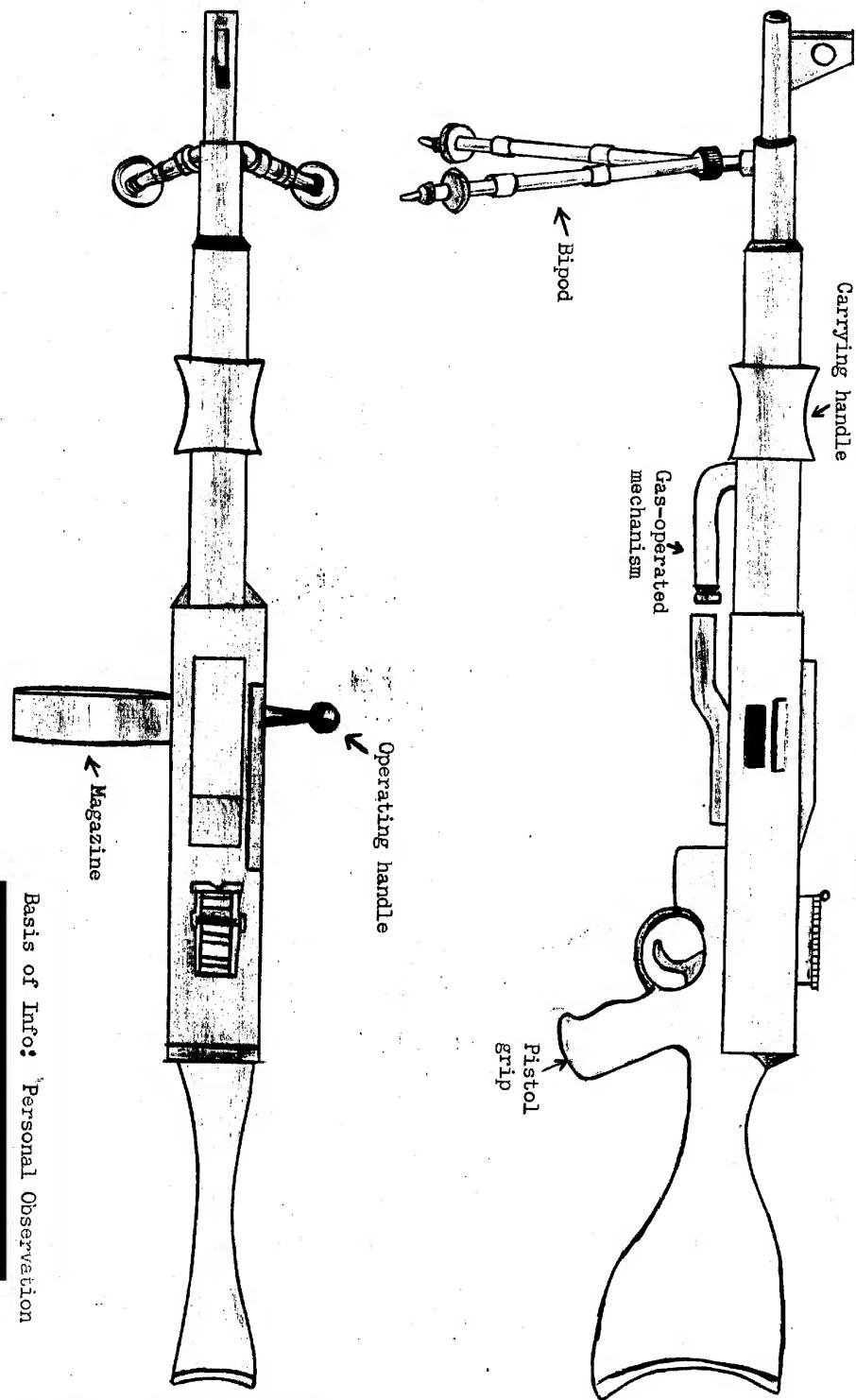
ANNEX A: Memory Sketch of New Soviet 7.62 LMG Kalashnikov

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